Canadian Institutes of Health Research | Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada

Pop News

CIHR—Institute of Population & Public Health

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Issue 8

Message from the Scientific Director

In this issue of POP news, we are particularly delighted to profile our cooperative agreement with the Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA), the Canadian Population Health Initiative (a part of the Canadian Institute for Health Information) and the Public Health Agency of Canada (see page 2). This growing partnership between four national organizations signals our collective dedication to advancing policy and practice relevant population and public health (PPH) research and knowledge exchange initiatives that lead to improvements in the health of citizens locally and globally.

One of our most notable collaborative events is the 2005 CPHA Conference, which is being held in Ottawa from September 18-21st, 2005. The conference will provide the interactive space for renewing our focus on bridging research, policy and practice divides in order to address the new and emerging PPH problems of our time. Whether it is understanding and addressing the global, social or environmental factors that impact on human health or developing policy and program interventions to combat the obesity epidemic, this event provides the opportunity to explore these and many other topical themes. We are especially proud to be offering awards to two masters and four PhD students who are being recognized for PPH research, policy and practice excellence (see page 3)

Finally, the fall also brings a time for saying thank you and adieu to wonderful colleagues who have dutifully served the Institute as Advisory Board members: Dr. Jean-Yves Savoie (who has provided expert guidance as our Board Chair since the Institute's inception), Dr. Catherine Hankins and Dr. John McLaughlin. We would like to take the opportunity to welcome three new members -- Dr. Jean Shoveller (University of British Columbia), Dr. Kristin Aronson (Queen's University) and Dr. Jim Dunn (St. Michael's Inner City Health Research Unit). We are also pleased to announce that Dr. Robert Brunham will become our Institute Advisory Board Chair and Dr. Gilles Paradis, our Vice-Chair. Under the able stewardship of our Advisory Board, we are confident that the Institute will continue to best respond to the diverse needs of both PPH researchers and stakeholders alike.

As always, please be in touch if you have any feedback (beefs or bouquets!) about the newsletter and/or the Institute. We very much welcome hearing from you.

Warm regards,

John Frank
Scientific Director

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Fostering evidence-based decision-making in Canada: Examining the need for a Canadian population and public health evidence centre & research network

Kiefer L, Frank J, Di Ruggiero E, Dobbins M, Manuel D, Gully P, Mowat D. *Can J Pub Health* 2005; 96:I1-I40.

This paper was recently published as a peer reviewed supplement in the May/June 2005 issue of CJPH. It is contributing to discussions in Canada and abroad regarding knowledge exchange and uptake in population and public health, such as the National Collaborating Centres for Public Health.

Extra copies are available from IPPH
<cihr.ipph@utoronto.ca>

Canada

Landmark Cooperative Agreement Signed

"We value this important partnership with IPPH, CPHA and PHAC. Together, we can continue to move population and public health research and policy forward in Canada."

Elizabeth Gyorfi-Dyke,
Director of the Canadian Population Health Initiative (CPHI)
at the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI)

"As Canada's NGO voice on public health issues, CPHA is especially delighted to be partnering with PHAC, CPHI and IPPH to undertake research, education and knowledge exchange activities that will ultimately lead to a strengthened public health system and improvements in the health of all citizens."

Elinor Wilson
Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Public Health Association

"This agreement marks a significant milestone for population and public health research and knowledge translation in Canada. Together, IPPH, CPHI, CPHA and PHAC have accomplished much more than we could have ever done individually. We sincerely thank our partners for their collaboration and commitment to this partnership."

John Frank
Scientific Director
CIHR Institute of Population and Public Health

"The Public Health Agency of Canada is pleased to be working with CPHA, CPHI and IPPH at this critical stage in its evolution"

David Mowat
Director General
Public Health Agency of Canada

The Institute of Population and Public Health (IPPH) and its key partners, the Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA), the Canadian Population Health Initiative (CPHI) — a part of the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) — and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), signed a landmark cooperative agreement in April 2005. This agreement, a culmination of collaborative efforts over the last several years, demonstrates a commitment to respond effectively in Canada's rapidly shifting population and public health (PPH) landscape. Together these organizations aim to promote, advance and support population and public health research, infrastructure development, capacity building and knowledge exchange initiatives to improve the health of individuals, communities and global populations. More specifically, the goals of their collaboration are to:

- **enable CPHA, CPHI, IPPH and PHAC to fulfill their individual goals and mandates in a synergistic manner that builds on the strengths and knowledge of each, for the benefit of the Canadian PPH community;**
- **build, strengthen and link the Canadian PPH research and research user communities to improve the use of evidence to inform PPH policy, practice and programs; and,**
- **leverage the potential of partnerships and collaboration to advance population and public health**

Since its inception, IPPH has enjoyed and continues to build strong relationships with CPHI, CPHA and more recently with the newly created PHAC. In 2001, IPPH and CPHI undertook a pan-Canadian consultation on population and public health priorities *Charting the Course* and then jointly prepared and disseminated the *Charting the Course Progress Report* two years following the initial consultation. Currently, IPPH and CPHI are collaborating to publish a knowledge translation (KT) casebook to share successful and unsuccessful PPH KT stories.

Over time, IPPH and CPHA have also nurtured a solid relationship. For example, both organizations significantly contributed to the establishment of the Canadian Coalition for Public Health in the 21st Century. Together these three organizations, IPPH, CPHI and CPHA, have been meeting regularly to address mutual efforts to build population and public health research infrastructure based on the recommendations of a March 2003 workshop, *Building a Sustainable Public Health Research Infrastructure*, supported by IPPH.

With the appointments of Canada's first Minister of State for Public Health (2003) and Chief Public Health Officer (2004), and with the advent of PHAC and the six National Collaborating Centres for Public Health (2004), IPPH, CPHI, and CPHA have also been working closely with PHAC in a number of key areas. In particular, they are jointly planning and sponsoring CPHA's 2005 national conference, *Mapping the Future of Public Health: People, Places and Policies*, in association with Statistics Canada. The conference has been a key driver behind the newly signed cooperative agreement. These partners intend to jointly plan and host future CPHA national conferences. PHAC, CPHA and IPPH have also established a committee for coordinating, and collaborating on, relevant activities of their respective organizations that are related to the further refinement and implementation of a Pan-Canadian Framework for strengthening Public Health Human Resources. In this context, the Pan-Canadian Public Health Human Resources Framework includes, but is not limited to: training, recruitment and retention of a skilled public health workforce, accreditation, core competencies, MPH program guidelines, and so on.

As partners dedicated to serving the research and knowledge exchange needs of Canadian PPH stakeholders, IPPH, CPHI, CPHA and PHAC welcome input from across the community. We look forward to building on and broadening the reach and effectiveness of our collaborative activities for the ultimate benefit of all Canadians during these dynamic times for population and public health in Canada.

2005 Population & Public Health and Dr. John Hastings CPHA Student Awards

IPPH, in collaboration with the CPHA, the CPHI — a part of CIHI — and the PHAC, are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2nd Annual Population and Public Health (PPH) Student Awards, and the inaugural Dr. John Hastings CPHA Student Award (formerly the CPHA Student Award, re-named in honour and memory of Dr. John Hastings for his commitment to and belief in students as the future of public health in Canada).

The awards were established to recognize excellence in PPH research conducted by Master's and PhD level students enrolled in a Canadian academic institution. In addition to cash prizes and the opportunity to present their work at the 2005 CPHA Conference, student abstracts will be highlighted and integrated in this year's conference program, and project descriptions will also be published in a future issue of the Canadian Journal of Public Health.

Compared to 2004, there was a four-fold increase in applications to this year's award program, spanning a wide range of Canadian and global population and public health topics. The projects of this year's award winners' address the 2005 CPHA conference theme areas of Global Health, Health Disparities, Health Across the Life Course and Places and Health, and all have the potential to meaningfully influence future PPH research, policies and practices.

Renée Larocque is recipient of this year's Dr. John Hastings CPHA Student Award for her study entitled "Should de-worming be included in prenatal care programs in hookworm-endemic areas of developing countries?" Renée is a PhD candidate in Epidemiology and Biostatistics at McGill University in Montréal.

A tie for the PhD level PPH Student Awards resulted in three PhD level award recipients this year. The recipients are:

Dana Hélène Wilson, PhD candidate in Geography at McGill University, for her study entitled "Neighbourhood Contexts and Opportunities for Youth Gambling in Montréal, Québec." Her research uses a population health approach, and combines quantitative and qualitative methods to explore how neighbourhood environments shape opportunities for youth to engage in video lottery terminal (VLT) gambling. Dana's previous work includes Master's level training in health geography and population health at McMaster University (where she completed a qualitative study of relationships between human health and the urban ecosystem in Chennai, India), as well as a joint-honors degree in Environment & Resource Studies and Geography at the University of Waterloo.

Prithwish De, PhD candidate in Epidemiology & Biostatistics at McGill University, for his study "Social network characteristics of injection drug users in Montreal, Canada." His work is being carried out as an integral part of the population health research agenda of the Montréal Public Health Department, and involves both community and academic collaborators. His previous experiences have been in the field of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and STD research with vulnerable populations.

Eleanor Boyle, PhD candidate at the Institute of Medical Science of the University of Toronto, for her study entitled "What Individual and Contextual Factors Predict an Ambulatory Encounter with a Musculoskeletal Specialist?" Eleanor holds a Master's of Science degree in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from the University of Western Ontario, and is currently employed as a senior research associate in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto. Her research interests include: medical geography, health care services, arthritis and primary health care.

Margaret Broughton is recipient of a Master's level PPH Student Award for her study "Food Security and Nutritional Status Among Vancouver Preschool Children." Margaret has recently completed her MSc. in Health Care and Epidemiology at the University of British Columbia. Her research examines the contributions of individual and community factors to food insecurity, as well as the relationship between food insecurity and childhood overweight and nutritional status. Margaret is currently employed as a community nutritionist for Vancouver Coastal Health. She recently participated in the development of a provincial survey of foods for sale in schools, and in the development of standards for foods for sale in schools in British Columbia.

Helen Oliver, MSc candidate in Community Health and Epidemiology at the University of Saskatchewan, is recipient of a Master's Level PPH Student Award for her study "In the Wake of Structural Adjustment Programs: A comprehensive look at the relationship between domestic policies and health outcomes in Argentina and Uruguay." Helen comes to her Master's degree with an interdisciplinary background which includes a Bachelors Degree in English from the University of Saskatchewan, a Post Degree Diploma in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Waterloo, as well as work in conflict mediation and with refugees in Canada and Central America.

Award recipients are very appreciative for the recognition of their work, and for the opportunity to have their projects integrated into the upcoming CPHA conference. The student awards will be presented at the 96th Annual CPHA Conference in Ottawa, September 18th-21st, 2005. For more information on the conference and student awards, please visit the conference web site at: http://www.cpha.ca/conf96/web_eng/index.html.

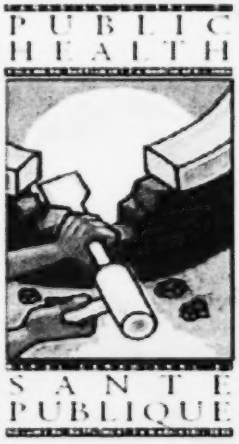
Canadian Journal of Public Health - Special Issues

Understanding the Forces that Influence Our Eating Habits: What We Know and Need to Know
Volume 96, Supplement 3
July/August 2005

In 2003-2004, a project was undertaken to synthesize the literature on the determinants of healthy eating. This project grew out of recommendations from an overview of key knowledge gaps for promotion and support of healthy eating undertaken in 2001. Through the synthesis of information provided by more than 50 key informants, important knowledge gaps and research needs with respect to determinants of healthy eating and the effectiveness of interventions to promote healthy eating were identified. Key informants specifically pointed to the need to consolidate, synthesize and disseminate what is already known in these areas. This was considered necessary for the development of research agendas, to provide a base of information to help inform policy and funding decisions, and to support application and evaluation of best practices.

The insights gained from this supplement are intended to contribute towards advancing a relevant research agenda on healthy eating, a key foundation to support evidence-based community programs and healthy public policies. CIHR looks forward to continuing its work with Health Canada's Office of Nutrition Policy and Promotion, the new Public Health Agency of Canada, and other key actors, towards this end.

For a copy of the supplement, please visit the CPHA website at: http://www.cpha.ca/shared/cjph/archives/CJPH_96_Suppl_3_e.pdf



Health Disparities in Canada
Volume 96, Supplement #2
March/April 2005

We are pleased to announce that the six synthesis papers prepared for and discussed at the National Policy Forum on Reducing Health Disparities in March 2004, have now been published as a special issue in the Canadian Journal of Public Health.

The six articles that comprise this special *CJPH* supplement are based on synthesis papers originally commissioned for the 2003 International Think Tank. Together, they constitute thought-provoking overviews of research in health disparities and help to chart a future course. Although each author identifies topics and activities specific to his or her respective field, there are multiple points of convergence. First and foremost, Canada must support and expand its efforts to create a knowledge base that informs relevant policies and practices. Research is required to document inequities, to elucidate the mechanisms that produce health inequities, to design and test interventions that reduce inequities, and to evaluate programs already in effect.

A copy of the supplement can be found at: http://www.cpha.ca/shared/cjph/archives/

IPPH Funding Opportunities

IPPH is pleased to announce the following upcoming funding opportunities:

Priority Announcements:

IPPH and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) have launched Priority Announcements for the following Fall 2005 competitions. These funding programs aim to strengthen public health research capacity thereby supporting the next generation of public health researchers, and stimulating public health policy- and practice-relevant research across the country:

Fellowship Awards (Full Application Deadline - October 1, 2005). More information on this funding opportunity is available at: http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/28204.html

Doctoral Research Awards (Full Application Deadline - October 15, 2005). More information on this funding opportunity is available at: http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/28205.html

Population and Public Health Research Development and Knowledge Exchange Initiative (Full Application Deadline - October 3, 2005)

IPPH has recently launched its new Research Development and Knowledge Exchange Initiative, to support meritorious knowledge exchange activities and opportunities for research development (e.g. workshops, environmental scans, researcher exchanges to facilitate joint research project development with/between IPPH –funded teams/ centres/training initiatives) to facilitate collaboration among individuals from a variety of disciplines, backgrounds and roles (e.g. researchers and research-users such as program managers, policy-makers and practitioners)

For full details on this initiative, please visit the CIHR website at http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/28717.html

Coming December 2005

CIHR's Institute of Population and Public Health, in partnership with the Canadian Population Health Initiative at the Canadian Institute for Health Information, is pleased to announce the upcoming release of our inaugural Knowledge Translation Casebook. Featuring original submissions from across Canada, the Casebook highlights first-hand stories of knowledge translation in population and public health research and demonstrates the impact that such research can have in shaping policy, program and practice changes.

Designed as a means for both researchers and decision makers to share and recognize their experiences, the Casebook focuses on lessons learned from both successful, and less than successful, knowledge translation activities. For more information, please visit the CIHR website in December for more details: www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca

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IPPH Publications

The following Publications are available in both print and electronic form. To download a .pdf or .html file of these documents, please visit our website at: http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/institutes/ipph/publications/index_e.shtml

Mapping and Tapping the Wellsprings of Health, Strategic Plan 2002-2007—Full Plan and Executive Summary

Institute of Population and Public Health Annual Reports

Charting the Course Progress Report: Two Years Later: How Are We Doing?

Building Public Health Research, Education and Development in Canada: A Five-Site Consultation

Establishing a Long-term Agenda for Workplace Mental Health Research

The Future of Public Health in Canada: Developing a Public Health System for the 21st Century

Recently Funded Initiatives

IPPH recently funded projects in the areas of its strategic research priorities through the Spring 2005 Priority Announcements, for the following competitions:

IPPH Fellowships
http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/28764.html

IPPH – IGH – IHDCYH Fellowships
http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/28677.html

IPPH – IG Operating Grants
http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/28636.html

Pop News Evaluation: How are We Doing?

As **Pop News** is now at the end of its second year of publication, the IPPH staff would like to know whether or not it is meeting your needs. After reading this issue, could you please assist in evaluating **Pop News** by clicking on the link below and answering the subsequent questions. Your feedback is much appreciated.

http://www.feedbackform.ca/

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